

“What’s Up With My Cal Grant?”

Answers to Student’s Questions
about the Cal Grant Award Process



California Student Aid Commission

Welcome Financial Aid Counselors!

We will begin our training in a few moments. In the meantime, here are some hints for getting the most out of this web-training:

To hear the **AUDIO**
portion of the training:

1. Dial **1-866-826-6773**
on your phone
2. enter the PIN code:
975985
3. Press the **#** button

To ask **QUESTIONS** during
the presentation:

1. Type your question in the
<Send A Message> field
located at the bottom of your
screen
2. Press the **<ENTER>** key on
your keyboard
3. A response to your question
will be provided in the chat
window by CSAC staff.

Today’s Trainer

Bryan Dickason
(916) 526-8919
bryand@csac.ca.gov

After the training, e-mail any questions to:
otdtraining@csac.ca.gov

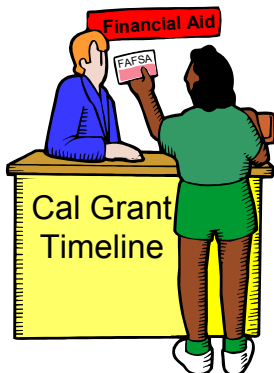
What is a Cal Grant?

- The Cal Grant is a state funded college financial aid program for undergraduate students.
- Students can apply for the grant prior to any of their undergraduate years
- There is a deadline for complete applications

Entitlement vs. Competitive

Selection Methods

- Entitlement
 - Recent high school graduates
 - For 2004-05 graduated July 1, 2002 or later
 - Funding guaranteed – corrections allowed
- Competitive
 - Not a recent high school graduate
 - Limited funding – corrections not allowed



March 2 Deadline Timeline

January 1 to March 2
Submit Complete Application



January through September
Student receives Award Status Notifications



January through September
Student makes corrections to application data
(Entitlement Only)



August through the next September
Schools pays eligible students and notifies CSAC

September 2 Deadline Timeline

January 1 to September 2
Submit Complete Application



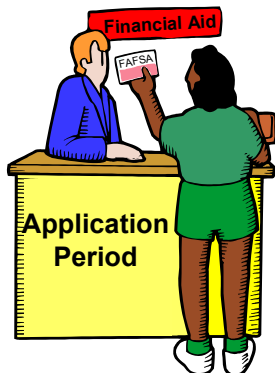
Approximately September 9
School Submits Enrollment Data



October
Student receives Award Status Notifications



October through the next September
Schools pays eligible students and notifies CSAC



How do I apply for a Cal Grant?

- File a FAFSA and have your GPA certified by one of two Cal Grant filing deadlines:
 - March 2 for students attending any type of postsecondary institution
 - September 2 only for students enrolled in a community college

How do I apply for a Cal Grant?

- **A two part process:**
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - Most are filed on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - Have supply of paper applications on hand
 - Can be used to assist in gathering application information
- **Have school certify a Grade Point Average**

Can you Certify my GPA?

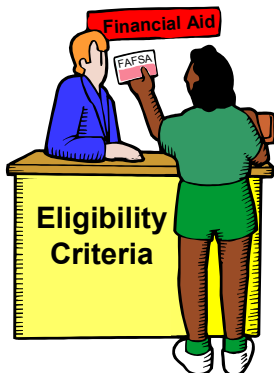
- In general, students with less than 24 college units will have their High School GPA certified
 - High school GPAs can be certified by a college if:
 - The college has the students transcripts
 - The college knows the correct method for high school GPA calculation
 - The college knows that the high school meets the accreditation requirement

GPA Certification

- Community college students have the option to submit a "Reestablished" GPA calculated on at least 16 but less than 24 units. (Cal Grant B Competitive awards only)
- Once the student has 24 or more college units, they can use that GPA to apply for a Cal Grant competitive award.
- A High School GPA must be submitted for an Entitlement award, even if the student has 24 or more college units.

GPA Certification

- Financial Aid staff should know who on their campus can certify a student's GPA.
 - Is it the Registrar or someone else?
 - Is the GPA keyed online, submitted in a batch or certified on paper?
 - Will the GPA be certified if the student has little or no units at the school?
 - What about timing?



Has my Cal Grant been awarded yet?

- The Student Aid Commission determines Cal Grant eligibility
- FAFSA and GPA data are reviewed to establish student eligibility
- Entitlement Cal Grant applicants are awarded starting in January until into the summer and beyond.
- Competitive Cal Grants are awarded in April and then again in October.

Has my Cal Grant been awarded yet?

- Students can call (888) 224-7268
- Schools can call (888) 294-0153
- WebGrants users (schools) can check on-line

What are the General Cal Grant Eligibility Requirements?

- California Resident
- U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen
- Attending eligible school at least half-time
- Not incarcerated
- Making satisfactory academic progress
- Complied with Selective Service requirements
- Not in default on any student loan
- Have not earned B.A. or B.S. degree or the equivalent

What are the General Cal Grant Eligibility Requirements?

- For selection purposes only, CSAC uses absolute income and asset ceilings.
- The ceilings are approved annually for the next year by the Commission in November
- They are subject to final approval based on State budget process

Do I have to have financial need?

- **For New Cal Grant Recipients:**
 - CSAC calculates need
 - COA – EFC – Veterans benefits = need
- **How much need?**
 - Cal Grant A or C
 - \$1,500 + maximum segmental Cal Grant award
 - Cal Grant B
 - \$700
- **For Renewals:**
 - \$100

Minimum Financial Need

- Therefore, to be selected for a Cal Grant A award, an applicant must show need of:
- CSU Campus = \$3,834 (\$2,334* + \$1,500)
- UC Campus = \$7,184 (\$5,684* + \$1,500)
- Private college = \$9,822 (\$8,322* + \$1,500)

** Final award amounts always dependent on the final State budget.*

When will I be notified?

- Notification for Entitlement applicants will begin as early as January.
 - Selection continues through September
- Notification for March 2 Competitive applicants will take place after Competitive selection in early April.
- Notification for September 2 Competitive applicants will take place after the selection in early October.

What does this unawarded letter mean?

- **Incomplete Application** letter
 - CSAC received ISIR and GPA, but ISIR did not have an EFC
 - Student needs to review and correct SAR to assure that an EFC can be calculated
 - If the student already has corrected SAR and their SAR has an EFC, no action is necessary

What does this unawarded letter mean?

- Cal Grant **Application on Hold** letter
- As submitted, the application showed ineligibility for one of the following reasons:
 - No California college listed
 - California residence not indicated
 - Stated student already had a BA degree
 - Student not a California resident at time of HS graduation
 - No HS Graduation date supplied
 - Indicated pursuing a graduate level program

What does this unawarded letter mean?

- Cal Grant **Application on Hold** letter
 - Entitlement applicant is sent a Cal Grant Application Correction Form
 - Applicants use the form to correct any application errors directly with CSAC
 - Form has a due date
 - CSAC expects applicants to follow through with their applications
 - Competitive applicant is disqualified

What does this unawarded letter mean?

- Cal Grant **financially ineligible** letter
- Student's application was complete but based on application information they could not be awarded
 - Income over ceiling
 - Assets over ceiling
 - Required need below minimum required for award

What does this unawarded letter mean?

Financial ineligibility

- Entitlement applicants:
 - Student can review their SAR for accuracy
 - If the school is exercising professional judgment, the Student Aid Commission will accept application modifications for Entitlement applicants.
- Competitive Applicants:
 - Applicant is disqualified

What does this unawarded letter mean?

- Denied – GPA Below Minimum
 - Cal Grant A requires 3.00 or higher
 - Cal Grant B requires 2.00 or higher
 - If an Entitlement applicant believes their GPA was calculated incorrectly, they will have to have the certifying school submit a correction to CSAC.
 - Competitive applicants are disqualified

What does this unawarded letter mean?

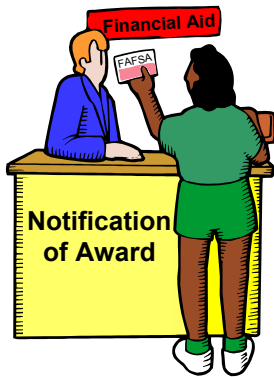
- No GPA/Test scores provided
 - CSAC was not able to match the ISIR with a GPA or test score
 - Resubmission allowed for both Entitlement and Competitive applicants only with proof of timely submission
 - Certificate of Mailing
 - Other proof of timely submission

What Does Denied – Low Score Mean?

- Denied – Low Score
 - Applicant was ranked based on a composite score derived from the following categories and placed lower than required for selection
 - Income
 - Size of household
 - Parent's education levels
 - Single parent household
 - Disadvantaged high school/Reentry student
 - GPA

What Does Denied – Low Score Mean?

- Denied – Low Score
 - Applicant might still be ineligible even if they:
 - Have high financial need
 - Are disadvantaged
 - Have a high GPA
 - Are receiving other low income assistance
 - Competitive applicants cannot submit corrections



What is a California Aid Report?

- The California Aid Report, or CAR, is the Cal Grant award notification.
- Eligible students are mailed the CAR, schools can view the CAR on WebGrants.

What comes with the CAR?

- Recipient Change Form
 - For Demographic and school changes
 - Earlier submission is best
- New Recipient Reference Manual
 - Explains basics of Cal Grant participation
 - Student should read this!

What is a Cal Grant A award?

Provides tuition/fee assistance for low and middle income students demonstrating financial need.

- For students enrolled in programs leading to a degree or certificate at least 2 years / 48 semester units in length
- GPA requirements: 3.00
- Maximum annual award amounts
 - Community Colleges – on reserve
 - CSU - \$2,334
 - UC - \$ 5,684
 - Independent - up to \$8,322

What is a Cal Grant B award?

- Provides tuition/fee and/or stipend assistance to low income students.
- For instructional programs of at least one academic year / 24 units
- GPA requirement of 2.00 or higher.
- \$1,551 paid for first time freshman
- After the freshman year, recipients receive the \$1,551 access (stipend) plus the same tuition & fee payment of Cal Grant A.

What is a Cal Grant C award?

- For low to middle income students enrolled in occupational or technical courses of study.
- A Cal Grant C GPA is **optional**, but...
 - Students earn additional points by having a GPA submitted by the March 2nd filing deadline
 - Students submitting a GPA get considered for all Cal Grant awards.
 - Submission of a GPA cannot hurt the student

What is a Cal Grant C Supplement?

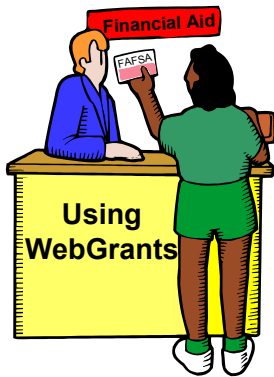
- CSAC mails a Cal Grant C supplement to potentially eligible students
- The Cal Grant C supplement must be certified by a non-relative adult that is personally aware of the students vocational aptitude.
- The additional information is used to score Cal Grant C applicants.
- Who on your campus can certify these?

Cal Grant C Amounts

- Tuition and Fees - \$2,592
- Training related expenses - \$576
- Cal Grant C recipients attending a California Community College receive only the Training related expenses.

What are the different Cal Grant selection methods?

- Entitlement
 - All selection criteria set ahead of time
 - Funding guaranteed for all eligible applicants
- Competitive
 - Applicants ranked based on disadvantaged indicators (Cal A and B) or vocational aptitude (Cal C).
 - Funding limited requiring a competitive award selection



Using WebGrants to Check Student Statuses

- WebGrants is CSAC's on-line Cal Grant administration tool
- Can be accessed from any internet access point (User name and password required)
- Access to system is controlled by each campus
 - Contact the CSAC Help Desk if you need to find out how your campus administrator is:
1-888-294-0148

California Student Aid Commission (Instance = saprd)HomeToolsHelpSign Out

WebGrants SystemGFAStudent InfoSchool InfoRoster/ReconciliationData TransferChafee Grant

Student Info MainAward SummaryAward DetailDemographicsStudent HistoryCA Aid ReportGrant Record ChangesSimulator

Student Award Summary

- All data columns can be sorted either ascending or descending order.
- Click on the blue column headings to change the sort order of the data.
- Additional information can be viewed by moving your mouse over the data fields.

SSN = 987654321

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Student Award Summary


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SSN = 987654321

STEPHEN M SMITH
7358 HUNTINGTON SQ LN
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821
Home Phone: (916)
Work Phone:

Grant ID: E0402793
State of Residence: CA
Date of Birth: 04/25/1986
Citizenship: US CITIZEN

Academic Year*	Program Name	Application Status	Award Status	Award Status Date	Award Amount	Cycle ID	School ID	P/E Reason	C/E Reason	CC Reserve
2004-2005	A	F-E CMPL	P/E DISQ	03/11/2004	\$0	E1	00115000	99		N
2004-2005	B	F-E CMPL	AUTO ACC	03/11/2004	\$1,551	E1	00115000			N

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Student Info Main

- Award Summary
- Award Detail
- Demographics
- Student History
- CA Aid Report
- Grant Record Changes
- Simulator

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Student Award Detail

- Both new and renewal students can be viewed.
- Only award types with data will be displayed.

SSN = 987654321 Acad Year = 2004-2005 

STEPHEN M SMITH Grant ID: E0402793 Cycle ID: E1
Application Status: FIN ELIGIBILITY COMPLETE Marital Status: UNMARRIED Education Level (EL): 1
Dependency Status: DEPENDENT Family Size: 4 EL Verification: VERIFICATION NOT REQUIRED
Total Income: \$20,308 Family in College: 1
Net Worth: \$0

NEW		
	Cal Grant A	Cal Grant B
School ID/Program Code	001150001 00	001150001 00
Segment	CSJ	CSJ
Semester/Quarter	SEMESTER	SEMESTER
Source	2-52 / REGULAR	2-52 / REGULAR
PPA Type	FULL	FULL
Attendance Status	1 - CAMPUS	1 - CAMPUS
Housing Code	400.00%	400.00%
Remaining Program Eligibility	PROVISED EDCI DISQUALIFIED/TOO OLD/NOT ELIGIBLE	PROVISED EDCI DISQUALIFIED/TOO OLD/NOT ELIGIBLE
Award Status		
Budget Amount/Duration	\$0 / 9	\$14,379 / 9
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)	\$247	\$247
Other Aid	\$0	\$0
Veterans Benefits	\$0	\$0
Unmet Need		\$14,132
Total Award Amount	\$0	\$1,251
Tuition/Fees	\$0	\$0
Access/Books/Supplies	\$0	\$1,251

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WebGrants System GSA Student Info School Info Report/Recalculation Data Transfer Change Grant

Student Info Main

- Award Summary
- Award Detail
- Demographics
- Student History
- C&A Aid Report
- Grant Record Changes
- Simulator



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Student Demographics

- Change to a student's address, phone numbers and email address may be made on this Web page.
- Changes to Student Grant Record information must be approved by CSAC prior to final acceptance. Select **Grant Record Changes** from the menu bar to submit these changes.
- Changes to a student's name, SSN, date of birth or high school graduation date require supporting documentation [Click here](#) to print a form and instructions for requesting such changes.

SSN = 057891620 

First Name: MI: Last Name:
Address 1: Home Phone: () -
Address 2: Work Phone: () -
City: E-Mail:
State: Zip: HS Grad Date: 06/01/2004
Date of Birth: 04/25/1996
Source of Change: CSAC

Previous Data

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WebGrants System

GEA

Student Info

School Info

Business/Recalculation

Data Transfer

Change Grant

Student Info Main

Award Summary

Award Detail


Demographics

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CA Aid Report

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Current Award Summary

Award Summary

Award Detail

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Grant Record Changes

Simulator

Simulator

Simulates the grant amount changes affected by changing school and/or housing codes for new Cal Grant recipients.

Works for Cal Grants A,B,C and T.


Will display transfer or payment restrictions if associated with cycle id.

Until the State Budget is signed, award amounts and student eligibility are estimates and may change.

SSN = 987654321 Academic Year = 2004-2005

Current Award Information

Simulated Award Information

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Simulator

Simulates the grant amount changes affected by changing school and/or housing codes for new Cal Grant recipients.

Works for Cal Grants A,B,C and T.

Will display transfer or payment restrictions if associated with cycle id.

Until the State Budget is signed, award amounts and student eligibility are estimates and may change.

SSN = 987654321 Academic Year = 2004-2005

Current Award Information

Name: STEPHEN M SMITH

USED Code: 001150.00 CSU SACRAMENTO

Housing Code: 1 CAMPUS

Annual Award Details:

Grant Program: Cal Grant B Cycle ID: E1

Total Annual Award Amount: \$1,551

Tuition Fees: \$0

Access Amount: \$1,551

Books and Supplies: N/A

Award Status: Auto Accept

Simulated Award Information

USED Code: 00123300

OR

Housing Code: ABCADULT SCHOOL - 05134400

01 - On Campus

Cycle ID: E1

Run School Choice Simulator

Help Center

General Information

- Adjustment Reason Codes
- Changing Your Password
- Preparing GPA files for upload to the California Student Aid Commission
- Help with your Account

Publications

- Operation Memos and Alerts
- Production Schedule

User Guides

- Getting Started (Revised April 15, 2004)
- Getting Started for High Schools (Revised November 13, 2003)
- Tools (Revised January 23, 2004)
- Enrollment Screens (Revised July 7, 2004)
- GPA Screens (Revised June 17, 2004)
- Student Information Screens (Revised February 9, 2004)
- School Information Screens (Revised June 17, 2004)
- Roster/Reconciliation Screens (Revised June 8, 2004)
- Data Transfer Screens (Revised June 22, 2004)
- School Information Screens for High Schools (Revised June 17, 2004)
- Data Transfer Screens for High Schools (Revised May 6, 2003)
- User Administration (Revised April 15, 2004)
- User Administration for High Schools (Revised April 23, 2004)

Training Materials

- Enrollment File Upload FAQs
- El Verification FAQs
- Printing Reports FAQs
- Payment Roster FAQs
- Payment Roster Tutorial

Questions?

What if I have questions?

- You can call (School calls only):**
 - (888) 294-0153 8:00 to 5:00 Monday - Friday.
- You can write:**

California Student Aid Commission
P. O. Box 419026
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9026
- You can e-mail:**
 - otdtraining@csac.ca.gov
- You can visit our website at:**
 - www.csac.ca.gov

Where should I refer students?

- **Students can call:**
 - (888) 224-7268 8:00 to 5:00 Monday - Friday.
 - (888) CA-GRANT
- **Students can write:**

California Student Aid Commission
P. O. Box 419026
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9026
- **Students can e-mail:**
 - custsvcs@csac.ca.gov
- **Students can visit our websites at:**
 - www.csac.ca.gov
 - www.calgrant.org
